

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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DA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TH

SUBJ: SLAT STOCKS

REF: STATE 145546

SUMMARY: WE DISCUSSED LIQUIDATION OF SLAT AND
BRIGADE STOCKS JUNE 26 WITH CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME
COMMAND, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN. KRIANGSAK
INDICATED THAT HE WILL COOPERATE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 26, POMILCOUNS CALLED CHIEF OF
STAFF, SUPREME COMMAND, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN,
TO DISCUSS DISPOSITION OF SLAT AND BRIGADE STOCKS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL. WE TOLD
KRIANGSAK STOCKS HAD BEEN SCREENED TO DETERMINE
WHICH ITEMS WERE REQUIRED BY US FORCES AND WHICH
WERE EXCESS TO US NEEDS. PROCESS HAD NOW BEEN
COMPLETED, AND IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT OF
TOTAL VALUE OF OVER FOUR AND ONE-HALF MILLION
DOLLARS, ABOUT ONE-THIRD WAS REQUIRED BY US
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FORCES AND REMAINING TWO-THIRDS COULD BE TURNED OVER

TO RTG.

2. KRIANGSAK RUMINATED IRONICALLY OVER SUBJECT. HE RECALLED THAT REMAINING STOCKS WERE ONLY SMALL PORTION OF STOCKS ORIGINALLY BROUGHT INTO THAILAND, WHICH HAD INCLUDED COMPLETE EQUIPMENT OF A BRIGADE. STOCKS, HE SAID, HAD ONCE CONTAINED "ENOUGH PONTOONS TO BRIDGE MEKONG FIVE TIMES OVER". THAI HAD BEEN AWARE THAT STOCKS WERE BEING DEPLETED OVER THE YEARS, BUT IN VIEW OF WARS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, THEY HAD NOT COMPLAINED, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN RATHER DUMBFOUNDED, RIANGSAK SAID, WHEN TEN BAILEY BRIDGES WERE RUSHED TO CAMBODIA JUST IN TIME FOR GKR SURRENDER. KRIANGSAK EXPRESSEC VIEW THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE ALL REMAINING STOCKS IN THAILAND AND SAVE RETROGRADE TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

3. WE POINTED OUT THAT ITEMS SLATED FOR RETROGRADE WERE NEEDED BY US FORCES ELSEWHERE, CITING EXAMPLE OF 32 CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS. KRIANGSAK SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE TROUBLE ABOUT THE RETROGRADE. HE NOTED THAT THE MOST DESIRABLE ITEMS WERE LONG SINCE GONE.

4. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT MACHTAI STAFF AND SUPREME COMMAND STAFF WOULD GET TOGETHER TO GO OVER LISTS OF SLAT AND BRIGADE STOCKS FOR RETROGRADE AND TURNOVER.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SLAT AGREEMENT CLEARLY PROVIDES FOR US RECOVERY OF NON-EXCESS ITEMS, THAI BELIEVED THAT SLAT STOCKS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE TUNED OVER TO THEM IN TOTO, AND WERE APPARENTLY IN THE PAST ENCOURAGED BY US OFFICIALS IN THIS BELIEF. WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE KRIANGSAK WILL BE COOPERATIVE IN RETROGRADE OF NON-EXCESS SLAT AND BRIGADE STOCKS.
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